

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS – July 12, 2008

Call to Order: The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans called to order at 10:00 a.m. with proper ceremonies. The roll call revealed that all officers were present and a quorum was established.

Introductions: Gen. Gregg Maxon introduced new ADVS Director Col. Joey Strickland, USA (Ret.). Colonel Strickland was appointed to head the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services by Governor Janet Napolitano in July 2008 after serving more than 10 years as the Deputy Secretary and Executive Director of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs. Col. Strickland, who is American Indian of Choctaw-Cherokee-Lumbee descent, also served as Louisiana Director of Indian Affairs from 1996 to 2004, and served as Louisiana State Director of Troops to Teachers. He is a retired U.S. Army combat arms officer, serving in infantry, aviation and armor assignments worldwide. During his career, Colonel Strickland saw two combat tours in Vietnam and retired with nearly 29 years of service in 1964. Col. Strickland gave an overview of his experience and a brief introduction of the direction he anticipates ADVS will take.

Ryan Burke, Senior Asst. to Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, gave an update on the placement of the USS Phoenix sail at Steele Indian School Park. He has been working closely with the USS Phoenix Commission, but the final determination is in the hands of the Parks Department. A memorandum of understanding must be established with the Commission to move forward with the project.

The minutes of the previous were accepted as written by a motion from Jesse Gersten. The Treasurer's report was accepted by a motion by Jesse Gersten, seconded and carried.

Sickness and Distress: Chaplain Bohach reported that Veterans Hall of Fame members Don Jones and Mike Gannon had passed away. He also reported the passing of Judy Leiby, long time Veterans Constituent Liaison for former Senator Dennis DiConcini.

Presentation

Barbara Beard presented a video and handouts about *Horses Help* and its *Freedom Riders* program. Horses Help is a therapeutic riding program that is helping returning military who are suffering with disabilities, particularly amputees. Horseback riding offers significant rehabilitation assistance with balance issues as well as emotional well-being. Volunteers are needed in this area; contact barbara.b@horseshelp.org.

Gabe left information about a golf tournament and silent auction hosted by Boots for OUR Troops to benefit the National Guard's Emergency Relief Fund. The event will be May 22nd, cost is \$300 per player. For more information call (480) 250-3992.

Diane D'Angelo, representing Military Family Relief Fund (MRFF), was introduced. ADVS staffs this State of Arizona-legislated program. The MRFF is funded by donations including an eligible tax credit for up to \$200 pre individual and the MRFF Commission has already dispensed several stipends.

Reports

The following items were discussed at the Executive Board meeting prior to the regular meeting:

- Representatives are encouraged to represent only one organization.

- A donation to the Murray Grey Foundation was referred to the Executive Board at the June meeting for a recommendation. It was determined that contributions to the Foundation should come from individual organizations.
- Selections for the Veterans Hall of Fame have been notified pending background checks.
- UAV will partner with the Copper Sword award for the Legislative award. The current goal is to get a list of nominees and make the selection.

John Tymczyscyn, Veterans Constituent Liaison reported on the passage of the New G.I. Bill and a suicide hotline instituted by the VA.

Unfinished Business

There have been several suggestions about a location for a Veterans Museum. It does not appear that the building in Steele Indian School Park will come about, and the Papas School is not an option. Other suggestions included the Carnegie Library in downtown Phoenix, and vacant property near the National Cemetery.

Judy Hatch is making a wreath for UAV to use at various functions.

Camelback Jack will be invited to attend the October meeting to be recognized.

Donna Adams advised that ADVS sent letters to all veterans' service organizations to register with ADVS if they are soliciting public donations. Approval of ADVS is required by law.

Good of the Order

The Phoenix Mercury will host the 1st Annual Salute to Military Women with special recognition of WWII Women on July 25th at the WNBA Phoenix Mercury game. Tickets are \$20 with \$10 donated back to Veterans First for Military Women Past, Present and Future Outreach Events across the state that will incorporate Homeless Women Veteran Stand Downs.

VVA is hosting a golf tournament on September 28, 2008. The Four Person Scramble * Shotgun starts at 7:30 a.m. at The Legends at Arrowhead, Golf Course at 21027 N. 67th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85308. The \$80 entry includes golf cart, Lunch, goody bag, awards for 1st 2nd & 3rd place, \$10,000 Hole in one prize. Contact Lionel Sanchez at 602-332-5325 for more information.

The Military Family Relief Fund will be enhanced by the involvement of Famous Dave's Barbeque on Saturday, July 19th. The three locations will contribute \$5.00 for every Barbecue Tour dinner purchased for the Fund.

The closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 with proper ceremonies to meet again Sept 6, 2008.

Donna Adams, Secretary